

Mid-Career Methodological Opportunities

Closing Date: 1 March 1998

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to facilitate the development of innovative methods and models for understanding complex social and behavioral science phenomena, the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research and the Division of Mathematical Sciences announce a joint competition for a limited number of mid-career research fellowships in the social, behavioral, economic, and statistical sciences. Awards made from this competition will cover release time and related expenses so that successful investigators can spend an extended period of time at a host location immersing themselves in an area of study outside their current areas of expertise. For example, a statistician interested in developing methods for population projection may elect to spend the fellowship period in the Sociology Department on his home campus. Likewise, a psychologist interested in modeling learning behavior may select as a host location a Statistics Department at a distant institution. For the purposes of this announcement, the host location may be a different institution from the investigator's home institution or a different department within the home institution.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

The proposal must concretely demonstrate how the proposed fellowship activities will further the development of new methods for increased understanding of complex, substantive problems in the social and behavioral sciences.

These new insights may result from the expansion of the investigator's personal research program or from collaborations established by the investigator with other researchers during the fellowship period. The selection of the host location must be justified in the body of the proposal, as well as the proposed fellowship activities. In addition, the proposal must include a detailed letter of support signed by the department head or equivalent official at the host location outlining the nature of the relationship between the investigator and host location. The letter and other supporting materials should be included in Section I (Special Information and Supplementary Documentation) of the proposal.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Any qualified researcher may submit a proposal through normal institutional channels at either the home or host institution. To be qualified, the researcher must be employed at a U.S. institution and must have earned a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in the social, behavioral, economic, or statistical sciences. Although applications may be submitted from researchers at any level beyond the Ph.D., NSF especially encourages the submission of proposals from senior (post-tenure) researchers. An applicant may have only one mid-career fellowship award under this program or its successors.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

Proposals will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel consisting of scholars from the social, behavioral, economic, and statistical sciences. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement will be subject to the new merit review criteria, as outlined in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG, NSF 98-2),

located on the NSF Web Site at <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/cpo/gpg/start.htm>.

In addition to the general NSF criteria, proposals will be evaluated in light of their responsiveness to the goals and objectives of this announcement. The justifications for choice of host location will be important, as will be the statement by the host indicating that the applicant is welcome.

NSF anticipates supporting no more than 4-8 awards per year, depending on the rate of applications and availability of funds.

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND BUDGET

Proposals must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the instructions given in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG, NSF 98-2) and this announcement.

Awards will be made for up to a twelve month period. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate proposed activities with a sabbatical leave or other forms of release time. Allowable costs include a stipend, a special allowance, a relocation allowance, and an institutional allowance. The maximum stipend available for the duration of the award, paid directly to the Fellow, is \$50,000. Fringe benefits may be provided at a rate not to exceed the normal home institution fringe benefit rate. A special allowance of \$3,000 is expendable at the Fellow's discretion and is intended to be used for scientific supplies, travel, publication expenses, and other research related costs. Investigators may request a relocation travel allowance of up to \$3,000 if the host location is different from the home institution. An institutional allowance paid to the host

institution of \$300 per month of tenure is allowed for partial reimbursement of expenses incurred in support of the Fellow (e.g., space, equipment, secretarial assistance, and provision of general support). There is no dependency allowance. Tenure will start upon request by the successful applicant after acceptance of an award offer, but no earlier than 1 January 1999 and no later than 1 September 1999.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposals must be received by 1 March 1998. The original copy and 17 additional copies should be mailed in a single package clearly marked "NSF 98-18/SBER - MMS" to:

NSF Proposal Processing Unit (PPU)
4201 Wilson Blvd., Room P60
Arlington, VA 22230

INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this announcement should be directed to:

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Foundation provides awards for research and education in the sciences and engineering. The awardee is wholly responsible for the conduct of such research and preparation of the results for publication. The Foundation, therefore, does not assume responsibility for the research findings or their interpretation.

The Foundation welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists and engineers and strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in any of the research and education related programs described here. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the National Science Foundation.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

Privacy Act. The information requested on the application materials is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. It will be used in connection with the selection of qualified applicants and may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to the institution, the nominee, applicant or fellow is attending or is planning to attend or is employed by for the purpose of facilitating review or award decisions, or administering fellowships or awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers, and researchers as necessary to complete assigned work; and to other government agencies in order to coordinate programs. Information from this system may be merged with other computer files to carry out statistical studies, the results of which do not identify individuals. Disclosure may be made of awardees' names, home institutions, and fields of study for public information purposes. For fellows or awardees receiving stipends directly from the government, information is transmitted to the Department of the Treasury to make payments. See Systems of Records, NSF-12, "Fellowships and Other Awards," 60 Federal Register 4449 (January 23, 1995).

Public Burden. Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of your receiving an award.

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 12 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Gail A. McHenry, Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 245, Arlington, VA 22230.

The National Science Foundation has TDD (Telephonic Device for the Deaf) capability, which enables individuals with hearing impairment to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment, or general information. To access NSF TDD dial (703) 306-0090; for FIRS, 1-800-877-8339.

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Fellowship Announcement

***Methodology, Measurement, and
Statistics Program (MMS)
Division of Social, Behavioral, and
Economic Research (SBER)***

***Statistics and Probability Program
(S&P)
Division of Mathematical Sciences
(DMS)***

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION